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Letter dated 9 January 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 2065 (2012), in which the Security Council requested that I deploy an inter-agency technical assessment mission to Sierra Leone to conduct a review of progress made in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and provide a report, for the consideration of the Council, containing detailed proposals and a recommended timeline for the transition, drawdown and exit strategy of UNIPSIL by no later than 15 February 2013.

As you are aware, on 17 November 2012, Sierra Leone held successful presidential, legislative and local council elections, which were monitored by numerous international observers. Nevertheless, the major opposition party, the Sierra Leone People's Party, contested the results of the election and there are some delays in the formation of a new Government. We had anticipated that the new cabinet would have been confirmed by the first week of January 2013. However, the confirmation process for the ministers to take office is now expected to take place from 7 to 10 January 2013. According to ongoing consultations between UNIPSIL and Government representatives, President Ernest Bai Koroma is expected to return to his presidential duties by 13 January 2013 and the new ministers are expected to report to duty during the week of 14 January.

Taking into consideration all of the above, the inter-agency technical assessment mission, which was scheduled to be deployed to Sierra Leone from 7 to 25 January 2013, will now take place from 14 to 25 January 2013 to enable its members to discuss key issues with all the relevant stakeholders and interlocutors.

In order to provide the Security Council with a full view of all the elements requested in resolution 2065 (2012), it is anticipated that my report to the Security Council will be issued by 28 February 2013. I therefore would like to request an extension of the time frame for the report. In the meantime, I am ready to provide an update on this issue to the Security Council during the luncheon of 15 January 2013.

I would be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) BAN Ki-moon

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